



Manitoba
Historical Society

News Release

MANITOBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGAINST PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 500 TACHÉ AVENUE

Condo project too close to historic St. Boniface Museum

November 12, 2004 (Winnipeg, MB) – A proposed condominium project at 500 Taché Avenue would be located too close to the historic St. Boniface Museum, says the Manitoba Historical Society. Built in 1846, the St. Boniface Museum is the largest remaining traditional oak log structure in North America, the first hospital in the Canadian West, and an excellent example of early Red River frame construction. The St. Boniface Museum was designated as a national historic site in 1958. The proposed condominiums would sit within eight feet of the historic St. Boniface Museum, and rise to over 80 feet in height beside the St. Boniface Basilica.

The Manitoba Historical Society does not support this proposed condominium project at 500 Taché Avenue. Manitoba Historical Society President Dr. Gordon Goldsborough speaks on behalf of its Executive and Council, and over 500 members: “This proposed project violates historic properties in St. Boniface, specifically the St. Boniface Museum. We call upon the City of Winnipeg to review their decision concerning this project very carefully; the impact on the museum and surrounding historic buildings will be devastating,” said Goldsborough.

The proposed project will severely encroach the St. Boniface Museum, making maintenance work difficult, disrupting the architectural integrity of the Museum and surrounding sites, and will add unnecessary traffic to already aging buildings. Additional impacts include: loss of green space, inhibition of adequate light and air for surrounding buildings, and disruption of existing site lines, landmark views, and the historic character of the site and surrounding areas.

“This proposed project would permanently alter one of Winnipeg and Manitoba’s most historically important areas,” said Goldsborough.

The Manitoba Historical Society, founded in 1879, is the oldest historical organization in Western Canada and the second-oldest in Canada. The Society has taken a leading role in the preservation of historic structures in urban Winnipeg, including the Upper Fort Garry gate, the Sir Hugh John Macdonald residence (Dalnavert), and Ross House – the first post office in the West.

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